

*International Civil Aviation Organization*

ICAO

## WORKING PAPER (WP/21)

ASIA AND PACIFIC (APAC) TWENTY-FOURTH  
MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGICAL  
INFORMATION EXCHANGE WORKING  
GROUP (MET/IE WG/24)

Nadi, Fiji, 21 to 24 April 2026

**Agenda Item 6: Meteorological Information Exchange in IWXXM Form****SECURE IWXXM EXCHANGE IN THE ABSENCE OF AMHS/FTBP**

(Presented by Australia)

**SUMMARY**

The IWXXM Guidelines specifies the use of AMHS/FTBP for the exchange of IWXXM. To support expedited exchange of IWXXM, alternate secure protocols have been agreed by METP WG-MIE where bi-lateral agreements are reached. Action by the meeting is defined in para 3.1.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The ICAO Meteorological Panel (METP) assigned the Working Group on Meteorological Information Exchange (WG-MIE) the task of developing provisions to enable the inclusion of aeronautical information in the future system-wide information management (SWIM) environment consistent with ICAO Doc 9750, *Global Air Navigation Plan* (GANP).

1.2 The provision of OPMET information in ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) form became as described in ICAO Annex 3, *Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation*, became a Standard in 2020.

1.3 The METP WG-MIE developed the *Guidelines for the Implementation of OPMET Data Exchange* ('IWXXM Guidelines' –available at [ICAO APAC e-doc portal](#) -> MET) to assist with the implementation of IWXXM form operational meteorological (OPMET) data and its intra- and inter-regional exchange over the Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS) as defined in ICAO Annex 3.

1.4 Whilst some States now generate and exchange IWXXM many States have issues with accessing networks with the required protocols.

**2. DISCUSSION**

2.1 The IWXXM Guidelines specifies that the regional exchange of IWXXM information depends on the availability of:

- Messaging - The Inter-Regional Gateway (IRG (Com Centre)) service must support Air Traffic Services (ATS) Message Handling Services (AMHS) with File Transfer Body Part (FTBP) capability and configured to disseminate (& receive) IWXXM messages.
- Met Data – Availability of meteorological information in IWXXM form.

2.2 While exchange of IWXXM over AMHS is required by Annex 3, some States that are producing IWXXM do not have the necessary AMHS/FTBP connections to distribute data from their National OPMET Centre to their Regional OPMET Centre (ROC), supporting regional and global distribution via the AMHS.

2.3 To support expedited exchange of IWXXM information where AMHS/FTBP is not available, as an interim solution, the METP WG-MIE discussed and endorsed the use of other secure protocols for exchanging IWXXM between the IWXXM producer NOC and their ROC. The same approach could also be implemented within the State, for exchange between IWXXM producer and their NOC.

2.4 Note, ROCs are not required to support alternative secure protocols. Implementation of alternative secure protocols should only be done where a bi-lateral agreement for this capability is agreed by both parties.

2.5 As a result of this discussion, WG-MIE formulated the following Decision:

***Decision MIE/13-04: Enabling IWXXM Exchange via Secure Communications***

That, the IWXXM Guidelines should include support for the secure transfer of IWXXM between NOCs and ROCs, where mutually agreed, to support enhanced distribution of IWXXM regionally and globally.

2.6 This update is expected to be included in version 6 of the IWXXM Guidelines which will be published in Q2 or Q3 2026.

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) Consider any updates to the ROBEX Handbook to support short term use of other secure protocols for exchanging IWXXM.

-----